

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00294 061724Z

47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 /076 W

----- 078486

R 052200Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4836

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 0294

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR BH GT UK

SUBJ: PRICE STATEMENT ON BELIZE INDEPENDENCE

REF: A STATE 077684, B PORT OF SPAIN 0833

1. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY LAST WEEK TO MENTION AGENCE FRANCE PRESS' ACCOUNT OF PREMIER PRICE'S REMARKS AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN PORT OF SPAIN (REF A) TO GOVERNOR POSNETT AND ASK WHETHER PRICE HAD BEEN QUOTED CORRECTLY AND IF SO WHAT HAD LED HIM TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. H.E. HADN'T HEARD THE STORY BUT PROMISED TO ASK PRICE ABOUT IT.

2. GOVERNOR CALLED ME APRIL 3 TO SAY THAT HE HAD ASKED PRICE WHAT HE HAD TOLD REPORTERS IN PORT OF SPAIN. PREMIER HAD REPLIED THAT HE HAD MADE NO PREPARED STATEMENT BUT HAD SIMPLY REPLIED TO QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM BY REPORTERS WITH SAME ANSWERS HE HAD GIVEN TO SAME QUESTIONS MANY TIMES BEFORE. PRICE DID NOT RECALL EXACTLY HOW THE QUESTION IN REGARD TO WHEN HE EXPECTED BELIZE TO BECOME INDEPENDENT HAD BEEN PUT TO HIM BUT SAID THAT IT WAS QUITE POSSIBLE HE HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO ATTAIN INDEPENDENCE THIS YEAR WHICH, THE GOVERNOR QUOTED HIM AS HAVING SAID, WAS NOTHING NEW AND SHOULD HAVE  
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SURPRISED NO ONE.

3. THE REPORTER, AN OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER CARRIED SIMILAR STORY ON FRONT PAGE YESTERDAY UNDER BANNER HEADLINE "PRICE IN TRINIDAD SAYS HE HOPES FOR INDEPENDENCE THIS YEAR" CITING MIAMI HERALD AS SOURCE.

4. COMMENT. DESPITE HIS PROTESTATIONS TO THE CONTRARY, IT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH PREMIER PRICE'S DIPLOMATIC STYLE FOR HIM TO HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLICIZE HIS CAUSE, AND EXPLANATION SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY PORT OF PRINCE (PARAGRAPH 4, REF B) SEEMS PLAUSIBLE ENOUGH. PRICE WILL VERY LIKELY CONTINUE TO MAKE STATEMENTS OF THIS SORT AS LONG AS NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO PRINT THEM. THAT REPORTERS MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE UNDULY DRAMATIC PRESS COVERAGE OF PRICE'S COMMENTS IS ANOTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATION.  
GAWF

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, INDEPENDENCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, BOUNDARY CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BELIZE00294  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760129-0719  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ElyME>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRICE STATEMENT ON BELIZE INDEPENDENCE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, BH, GT, UK, (PRICE, GEORGE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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